

RECOGNIZING JUDGE RICHARD
LEE MCMECHAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Lee McMechan, retiring Superior Court Judge of Mariposa County.

Judge McMechan began his education at Fullerton Junior College, and soon after, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Science from California State University of Long Beach in 1960. He proceeded to earn his law degree from Western State University College of Law in Anaheim in Orange County. During and after law school he served as a detective and traffic officer in Garden Grove from 1958–62. From 1962–72 he served as a Claims Manager/Supervisor at Kemper Insurance Company in Santa Ana. Judge McMechan also proudly served his country from Private to Sergeant in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve from 1956–62.

Judge McMechan was admitted to the California Bar Association on January 5, 1972. From 1972 to 1974 he handled insurance defense for Hunt, Liljestrom & Wentworth. Between 1974 and 1982 he was a sole practitioner for San Juan Capistrano and Santa Ana, in California. McMechan also served as the Deputy District Attorney, part time, in Mariposa County from 1979–82. He served as Judge of the Sierra Judicial District Justice Court in Madera County from July 13, 1982 to November 16, 1987. On October 29, 1987 Judge McMechan was appointed to the position of Superior Court Judge and was officially elected Superior Court Judge on June 7, 1988.

Judge McMechan was born October 15, 1937 in Brea, California. He married Carol A. Wojciechowski on May 12, 1962. The couple have four successful children: Diedre, Kirsten, Darin and Bryan.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Richard Lee McMechan for his tremendous contributions to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Richard Lee McMechan many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE HARVARD LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend to my colleagues a beautifully written article by Benjamin L. McKean recounting the success earlier this year of the Harvard Living Wage Campaign.

Mr. McKean is a remarkable young activist who joined with many of his classmates in support of the campaign of low-wage workers at Harvard University to improve their wages, benefits, and working conditions. At a university which prides itself on training future leaders for the world at large, Mr. McKean and his young classmates decided to exercise leadership right at home on behalf of the less privileged in the Harvard community.

I submit Mr. McKean's article for insertion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the *Crimson*, May 9, 2001]

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

(By Benjamin L. McKean)

We have organized and won something tremendous in Harvard Yard these past three weeks. Since I entered Massachusetts Hall on April 18, workers at Harvard have seen countless victories. As part of the sit-in settlement, our janitors will begin negotiating a new contract more than a year early and any future pay increases will be retroactive to last week. The University committed to a good contract for our dining hall workers. The administration completely backed off from its threat to reclassify more than 100 of our dining hall workers at the Business School. They agreed to increase access to its English as a Second Language program and to immediately consider health care premiums for low-wage workers. Harvard agreed to a moratorium on outsourcing directly hired employees to subcontractors—and outsourcing has been the primary way the University has slashed wages and benefits for years. Alumni have donated more than \$10,000 to the Harvard Workers Center, which provides free legal aid and support to Harvard's poverty wage employees. And the University agreed to a committee to discuss the living wage with student and worker representation. Whatever concerns I have about this committee, it makes a big difference knowing that some of the people on the receiving end of Harvard's poverty wages will be there to tell the other members of the committee exactly what that's like.

Perhaps most importantly, it is no longer possible for power to operate at Harvard without acknowledging the principle that people deserve a living wage. Our community has a responsibility to treat all its members decently, and we have told the people who thought they led our community that they must do that. Everyone in the Harvard Living Wage Campaign—workers, students, faculty, alumni, area residents—said no to indent treatment, and to poverty wages. We said stop. All of us.

The past 21 days are not significant just because dozens of people occupied the President's office. The past 21 days are significant because of what happened outside of this building. Dining hall workers electrified Harvard Yard; worker-student solidarity is so strong that they want to have one of us help bargain their new contract. Faculty came together; about 400 of Harvard's famously individualistic professors together signed a letter calling for a living wage, and supporting the sit-in. Undergraduates turned out in record numbers for the largest rallies that the Yard has seen in decades, and students from every single graduate or professional school organized themselves in support in a completely unheralded way. Thousands of alumni called University President Neil L. Rudenstine, and even temporarily occupied the Harvard Club of New York. And our janitors and custodians organized rallies, trained themselves in civil disobedience and demanded decent treatment. And we all did it together. And so in the last 21 days we have won two victories; one in the form of substantive gains for Harvard workers, and the second a promise made today by this community—a promise to continue to fight for a living wage.

But our extraordinarily modest and simple demand for \$10.25 an hour makes a world of difference. On this campus, in this country, people have long fought for the principle that people should be treated without regard to race or to gender or to sexuality. That's because respecting the dignity of all people

is the fundamental principle of any community, especially of an educational community. We think an education is valuable because we think people are valuable enough to educate. And for the past 21 days, this whole community came together to say that every one of us is valuable. Every one of us deserves a living wage. And all of us together, in solidarity as never before, told the people who said no that they must say yes.

We—all of us—have made this a time when power stopped. For 21 days, we occupied the offices of the people who thought they could block the consensus of our entire community. We asked power to justify its operation, and power found that it couldn't. For 21 days, the people who thought they could run this place without regard for students, for workers, for faculty, for alumni and for the Cambridge-area community—those people did not have a clue what to do. For 21 days it was not business as usual in the halls of power. We should have no illusions: this sit-in was all about coercion. We all decided that we would not go along with the Corporation's coercive power any more, that we would not let them force indecent poverty wages on members of our community.

While this tremendous victory marks the end of one phase of our campaign for a living wage, we do not expect the Corporation's coercive power to disappear, and we do not expect this fight to end. We do not need to harbor a utopian fantasy in order to recognize that Harvard's administrators can and must treat people better and pay them better. So today's victory cannot be anything but partial.

Recognizing that, all of us should look ahead together to the day when we have won a living wage for all Harvard workers, and to the fights beyond that. Together, we can change not just the dialogue, but the reality of the conditions of Harvard's workers. We can turn the coercive power of the Corporation with the force of our collective yes. Together, in solidarity, we can make Harvard's power productive, make it a positive force and take it for workers. We have organized and won something tremendous here in Harvard Yard, because we have organized and won each other. And to keep winning—to win a living wage for all Harvard employees—we've got to keep organizing. Workers, students, faculty, alumni, parents, all community members energized from this victory should together build from here until everyone joins us in saying: Living wage now!

TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY FOR EFFORTS IN FUNDRAISING TO BENEFIT THE HEROES AND VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well of the House to congratulate the many people whose hard work and sacrifice resulted in a series of successful concerts to benefit the heroes and victims of the September 11th tragedies.

Last month, the music and entertainment worlds joined forces to raise funds to help those affected by the September 11th tragic events. On October 20th, Madison Square Garden hosted "The Concert for New York City." On October 21st, a second all-star benefit concert, "United We Stand," was held

here in our nation's capital while a third concert, "The Country Freedom Concert" was hosted in Nashville.

These three concerts raised well over \$20 million in ticket sales, viewer pledges, and other donations. Proceeds from these shows will benefit the American Red Cross, the Pentagon Relief Fund, the Salvation Army and the Robin Hood Relief Fund.

This weekend of concerts joined many of the world's greatest performers with Clear Channel Entertainment to raise money in support of the recovery efforts from the September 11 attacks. These concerts in New York, Washington and Nashville featured appearances by Billy Joel, Paul McCartney, Bono, Elton John, the Backstreet Boys, James Taylor, Michael Jackson, NSYNC, Eric Clapton, James Brown, Ricky Martin, John Mellencamp, Marc Anthony, Aerosmith, Mariah Carey, Tim McGraw, Vince Gill, George Strait and countless others.

These concerts offered America another chance to help in our recovery efforts and national healing. I am proud to join these individuals in standing up for America. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to watch the rebroadcast of the "United We Stand" concert tonight on ABC at 8 pm EST. Finally, I support this effort and commend the efforts of those in the music and entertainment community for their efforts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURING AMERICA FOR EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Securing America For Effective Transportation, or Safety, Act. This legislation is in stark contrast to the bureaucracy laden approaches of other bills. My bill would not create new federal spending nor new federal bureaucracies. The actions taken by this legislation fit into a few broad categories. First, it would give airline pilots the right to defend themselves, their aircraft, and their passengers by permitting them to bear arms. Second, it would clearly define the act of skyjacking as an act of piracy and provide appropriate punishment for any such act, up to and including capital punishment. Next, this legislation would provide appropriate strengthening of regulation of airline security in a fashion consistent with our constitutional framework. This would be done by requiring, for example, that law enforcement personnel be posted at screening locations rather than simply in the confines of an airport, and by requiring the production of passenger manifests for international flights. Finally, this bill would give airlines a strong incentive to improve passenger security, not by giving them taxpayer funded grants nor by creating new bureaucracies tasked with making administrative law, but rather by providing a tax incentive to airlines and other companies performing screening and security duties.

One example of my approach is how it treats employees. Rather than the Senate approach federalizing the work force or the House approach of subsidizing private security

firms via federal contracts, my bill raises the take-home pay of airline security personnel by exempting their pay from federal income taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the House bill, while a slight improvement over the Senate version, is still a step in the wrong direction. By authorizing a new airline ticket tax, by creating new federal mandates and bureaucracies, and by subsidizing the airline industry to the tune of another \$3 billion dollars, this bill creates a costly expense that the American people cannot afford. We appropriated \$40 billion dollars in the wake of September 11, and I supported that measure as legitimate compensation for individuals and companies harmed by the failure of the federal government to provide national defense. Soon thereafter we made another \$15 billion available to the airlines, and now we have a House bill that further victimizes the taxpayers by making them pay for another \$3 billion dollars worth of subsidies to the airline industry.

We need to stop this spending spree. President Bush correctly has indicated that the best way to deal with economic stimulus is not to spend more federal dollars but rather to engage in tax cuts. Yet, by creating this new airline ticket tax, we are going in the opposite direction. I oppose this new tax and it is not included in my bill. Instead, the approach taken in my bill uses tax reductions to ensure airline safety and promote further economic growth. By granting tax incentives for safety initiatives, we gain the advantages of new security precautions without creating onerous new regulations or costly and burdensome new bureaucracies. I proudly offer this bill for consideration.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency yesterday announced plans to increase arsenic standards in drinking water from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb.

I've always shared the concerns of the operators of our water systems throughout New Mexico that the high costs of complying with stricter new standards could raise water bills so high that New Mexicans can no longer afford treated water. The federal government must help cover the cost of these new standards.

Mayors throughout the western states, including Albuquerque Mayor Jim Baca, have repeatedly expressed their concern about the effects higher standards will have on consumers and on city coffers that are already stretched.

Today I am introducing the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that communities throughout the United States can continue to enjoy safe and clean drinking water. My legislation will provide grants to communities that need to come into compliance with the new drinking water standards announced today by the Bush administration.

We all want, expect, and deserve safe and clean drinking water that is affordable. Through a combination of the EPA's new

standards and federal assistance, I believe we'll continue to get just that.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of our good friend and colleague, Congressman Gerald B.H. Solomon.

From 1979–1999, Congressman Solomon served his country in the United States House of Representatives. Like so many Members here today, I am truly thankful for the example and leadership that Congressman Solomon demonstrated every day on behalf of his constituents.

A successful businessman, decorated Veteran, and leader both here and in his community, he set an enduring example of commitment, integrity, and service. His career was one that truly made a difference in the lives of those he represented. He was a zealous advocate on behalf of our American Veterans, a leader in scouting, and a foremost expert on education issues.

That outstanding commitment was an important reason that Congressman Solomon was named Chairman of the House Rules Committee. He used the authority afforded that position to fight for Veterans' benefits, a strong military, sound foreign policy, and fiscal responsibility here in Washington. Back home, he fought equally hard to promote pride, patriotism, civic duty, and volunteerism.

I am truly saddened by my friend's passing. But I will work hard here in Congress to carry on his fight for Veterans, and will work hard every day to emulate his overwhelming commitment to service and leadership. We are truly blessed to have known him, and truly fortunate to have the unique opportunity to carry on his proud tradition of advocacy and patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the New York delegation, Members from both sides of the aisle, and indeed, a grateful Nation to honor Jerry Solomon for his outstanding service and leadership. I know I join with every Member in extending to Freda and his entire family my deepest sympathies, and would ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in a moment of silence.

HONORING KIM SUTTERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kim Sutters for being named "Registered Nurse of the Year" by the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations. Sutters will receive the award in the Advanced Practice category.

Kim is known as the "pain guru" of Valley Children's Hospital. Staff, physicians, pharmacists and patients rely on her expertise in this area and she is regularly called upon to consult in pain management. She has developed a pain brochure, which was translated